REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 7-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been canceled. Claims 7-16 are new. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,629,499 (Flickinger et al.). The Examiner states that Flickinger et al. discloses an electronic form preparation system comprising an input pen, a coordinate input device and a data processor. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention is a form preparation system which provides for the selection of a form by recognizing handwritten information as characters and for the entry into the form and display of handwritten information as recognized characters. The present invention includes a coordinate-input section for writing the handwritten information on a form P. A coordinate recognition section captures the handwritten information written on the form as a series of coordinates. A character recognition section recognizes the series of coordinates as a specific one of characters stored in the system. A form selection section selects one of a plurality of items of form data stored in a storage section representing various types of forms, based on recognizing a specific first character handwritten in a first area of the form. A data generation section generates an electronic form corresponding to the selected form data including recognized second handwritten characters. The recognized second handwritten characters are then displayed together with the electronic form on a display in such a way that the recognized characters appear in an appropriate area of the electronic form. Because the character recognition section performs character recognition based on only the coordinates of the pen, free from noises such as ruled lines and boxes printed on the form, the character recognition is performed with high accuracy.

Flickinger et al. is directed to an apparatus for storing and transferring information hand written on a form. Flickinger et al. discloses a sensing mechanism 102 that senses a location of a pen 104. Hand written symbols or pen strokes made by the pen 104 are stored in a memory device 106. The handwritten symbols/strokes can be displayed on an electronic device 150 such as computer, at approximately the corresponding positions of the

form where the information was written (Col. 4, lines 59-65). Accordingly, Flickinger et al. merely discloses storing the hand written symbols or strokes as written and does not disclose a character recognition section that recognizes a character from coordinates of the coordinate input-section (pen).

Carini et al. is directed to a system for identifying the type of form used in a handwriting recognition based form completion system (col. 2, lines 10-13). As shown in Figs. 2 and 4, the system includes a form design component 12, an electronic clipboard 26, a form description depository 14, a form identifier module 28 and a handwriting recognition engine 30. The system operates by: (1) generating a form identifier field, (2) prompting the user to enter a form identifier, (3) recording and storing electronic stroke data indicative of the correct identity of the form and (4) invoking a handwriting recognition engine on the stroke data to obtain the correct identity of the form (col. 2, lines 15-20 and col. 30-33).

Ishikawa et al. is directed to an ultrasonic input device. The device includes an ultrasonic emitter 1 and a plurality of ultrasonic receivers 3, whereby the coordinates of the emitter can be calculated by a simple mathematical formula on the basis of signals received by the receivers.

Claim 1 has been canceled and replaced with new claim 7. New claim 7 recites, *inter alia*, an electronic form preparation system including a character recognition section that recognizes a character from the coordinates recognized by the coordinate recognition section, a form selection section that selects one of the plurality of items of form data in accordance with at least one first recognized character formed of a plurality of first ones of the coordinates at a first area; a data generation section that generates an electronic form based on the at least one first recognized character, the electronic form including at least one second recognized character formed of a plurality of second ones of the coordinates at a second area; and a display section on which the electronic form generated by the data generation section is displayed with the at least one second character appearing in a corresponding area.

Applicants first submit that Flickinger et al. does not teach, suggest or disclose a character recognition section, a form selection section that selects a form based on a recognized character or a data generation section that generates an electronic form which includes recognized characters. Flickinger merely discloses storing hand written symbols or strokes in a computer. Applicants submit that Flickinger does not anticipate new claim 7. Accordingly

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 1 as it would be applied to new claim 7.

The Examiner states that Carini et al. makes up for the deficiency of Flickinger et al. by disclosing a character recognition unit. However, as discussed above, and made clear at col. 2. lines 10-33 and Figs 2 and 4-5, Carini et al. performs character recognition only on the strokes used for identifying the form. (See Fig. 5, step 48). In contrast to Carini et al., new claim 7 recites a data generating section for generating an electronic form which includes second recognized handwritten characters formed of coordinates at a second areas of the form. Thus claim 7 recites recognizing coordinates at a second area different from the area of the form used for form identification, recognizes characters corresponding to the coordinates at the second area and includes those recognized characters with the an electronic form. Accordingly, since Carini et al. discloses recognizing selected handwritten characters only for the purpose identifying a form, there is no teaching or suggestion in Carini et al. of a data generation section that generates an electronic form based on the at least one first recognized character, the electronic form including at least one second recognized character formed of a plurality of second ones of the coordinates at a second area as recited in new claim 7.

Applicant submits that Flickinger et al. and Carini et al. are not properly combinable under 35 U.S.C. § 103. There is no teaching or suggestion by Flickinger et al. to add a character recognition capability as taught by Carini et al. to the disclosed electronic input/output device. Further there would be no motivation to use Carini et al's. invention with Flickinger et al's invention since the objective of Flickinger et al. is merely to transfer an image of the handwritten input to a computer with the least expensive possible configuration and not to convert the input to a set of known characters. Further, there is no a teaching or suggestion in Carini et al. to apply character recognition to the electronic transfer board disclosed by Flickinger et al.

Ishikawa et al. is directed to an ultrasonic coordinate input device and does not teach or suggest a character recognition section. Accordingly, Ishikawa does not make up for the deficiencies of Flickinger et al. and Carini et al.

Applicants submit that the combination of Flickinger et al., Carini et al. and Ishikawa et al. does not make new claim 7 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claim 7.

New claim 8 recites The electronic-form preparation system according to claim 7, wherein said coordinate-input section includes an input pen having a writing member and a transmitter that emits the signal, the signal including an electromagnetic wave and an ultrasonic wave. Ishikawa et al. discloses using only ultrasonic waves. An ultrasonic wave is a sound wave, while an electromagnetic wave is a wave of time varying magnetic and electric components. Accordingly, Ishikawa et al. does not teach or suggest emitting an electromagnetic wave.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that since new claim 7 has been shown to be allowable, new claims 8-16 dependent on new claim 7 are allowable, at least by their dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 8-16.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application, including claims 7-16, is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 7-16 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 28, 2005 By: _____
(Date)

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